



# CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier  
Secretary-Treasurer, Connecticut AFL-CIO  
Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Hartley and Representative Dargan, and members of the Public Safety committee. My name is Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary -Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and I am here to testify on behalf of our 900 affiliated local unions who represent over 200,000 union members from all 169 cities and towns.

## S.B. No. 323 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CRANE OPERATIONS

We support this bill as a good work in progress. We understand that advocates on all sides of this are working together and we applaud that effort. Safety on the job must be priority one. Last year the Department of Labor released it's workplace injury and death on the job report and we still face the fact that every 16 hours a worker in America dies on the job. Insisting that those who operate machinery have the proper skill and training level are key tom those numbers declining.

## S.B. No. 326 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

We oppose this legislation. We appreciate the potential for events because our affiliates' members work in the venues where these take place. However, the people involved with the MMA world have created many problems for members of the Nevada AFLCIO and we cannot in good conscience condone their actions by supporting this bill. With nearly 80 Unfair Labor Practices, clearly these owners are not responsible partners.

But even if that situation resolves itself we would object to this bill unless some changes in structure can be maintain. The world of MMA which may be exciting and entertaining to some, is demeaning to many. Women, and those in the LGBT community are often the brunt of slurs and comments used to further the competitive neater of these events.

In today's world, violence, hate crimes and bullying are playing a huge role in the life of our youth and young adults. As a State we should not be condoning this type of entertainment. Let's stand up to both corporate bullying and bullying as a form of entertainment and tell those who push this to change their ways before we amend our statutes.

Thank you for holding this public hearing and if you have any questions I would be happy to address them for you.

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